

# EVANGELISM FIRE (Train the trainers) WORKSHOP NOTES



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[www.coh.org.au/Workshop Powerpoints](http://www.coh.org.au/Workshop_Powerpoints)

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# ONE DAY EVANGELISM INTENSIVE TRAINING NOTES

## Introduction:

These notes have been compiled using our Church of Hope evangelism training materials that are on our Church of Hope website downloads page: [www.coh.org.au/downloads](http://www.coh.org.au/downloads). In these teaching notes I have included several shorter key practical teachings to help all Christians to share their faith immediately after completing this one-day Evangelism Intensive Training Workshop. These notes can also be used in conjunction with the PowerPoints for this workshop when training up others in the future.

After completing this workshop, I would encourage all those who have completed this course to continue to learn more about how to be effective in winning souls whilst DOING it. In particular our Evangelism Fire Workshop Manual and our Practical Evangelism Workshop teaching are good resources to help people to become even more effective in sharing their faith as they also continue to learn by practically sharing their faith with others.

In these notes we cover the following key areas to help people to share their faith immediately upon completing this one-day course:

- 1) Praying for divine appointments
- 2) Understanding humanity
- 3) Jesus is the answer
- 4) The simple gospel message (The gospel of grace)
- 5) The use of ice breakers to start conversations
- 6) Some keys to effective one-on-one evangelism
- 7) Twelve tips for effective street preaching
- 8) Sharing our testimony
- 9) Using gospel tracts to evangelize others
- 10) Continually being motivated by a genuine love for the lost
- 11) Depending on the Holy Spirit, and
- 12) The importance of commitment in sharing our faith with others

**Before covering these 12 important aspects of sharing our faith with others effectively, I will begin with a few introductory thoughts on the importance of having character and praying for people to be healed. Miracles of healing will so often lead people to Christ.**

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (Romans 8:28-30)**

**Early in my Christian walk when I was attending bible college, I met a person who gave me his ministry business card. The name on his ministry business card was “Character First.”**

When I read this ministry name on his business card, the Lord clearly impressed upon my heart the importance of having character first before He could entrust to me significant ministry roles.

Since then, over the past 27 years God has been continually doing a work of change in my life as He continues to prepare me for each new season of ministry. As Christians we are continually works in progress. Developing godly character in our life is crucial for many reasons. Some of these reasons are:

1) Because it helps us to shine for Jesus in our Christian walk. The way that we live our lives matters

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

2) Because it helps us to remain strong in our Christian walk in the ungodly and lawless times that we are now living in

**In the book of James we read, “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.” (James 1:12)**

3) Because the way that we live our life has the greatest impact on the lives of others

**The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy,**

“Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12) And

4) Because it will help us to finish our Christian walk strongly

**Towards the end of his time here on earth the Apostle Paul wrote,** “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

Following are some important aspects of Christian character that will help us to become all that God has planned for our lives and to remain strong in our Christian walk:

1. Having humility (1 Peter 5:5-6)
2. Having a teachable spirit (Proverbs 12:1)
3. Being faithful in the little things (Luke 16:10)
4. Letting our ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and our ‘No,’ ‘No.’ (Matthew 5:37)
5. Having integrity in the stewardship of money. That money is always our servant (1 Timothy 6:10) (Matthew 6:24)
6. Being faithful first in what is another man’s vision (Luke 16:12)
7. Being always truthful and honest in our dealings with others (Having integrity in the way that we do things)
8. That we live a life of simple trust and obedience, and
9. That we always speak well of others and refuse to engage in gossip and slander (This is a great key to seeing unity in the body of Christ)

**When we look at the lives of two of the greatest evangelists, Billy Graham and Reinherd Bonnke, they both had great character and finished their ministries here on earth well.**

## **MIRACLES OF HEALING**

**In the gospel of Matthew we read, “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” (Matthew 9:35)**

Miracles of healing will so often cause people to give their heart to Jesus Christ. Praying for people to be healed, especially when directed by the Holy Spirit, needs to be also an important part of our witness in the coming season. The early church was characterized by miracles of healings and daily people were added to the church. (Acts 5:12-16) (Acts 2:47)

**Jesus said to His twelve disciples, “And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand,’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons...” (Matthew 10:7-8)**

**Jesus Himself also said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)**

**In the book of Acts we read, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:4-8)**

How we need to live in the miraculous in the times that we are now living in to help see people come to Christ. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) He still heals the sick.

**I will now look at the 12 aspects of sharing our faith in turn:**

## **1) Praying for divine appointments**

Prayer is a great key to being fruitful in our evangelism outreaches. Prayerless people are powerless. Before going out to evangelise we need to pray for Divine appointments and for God to prepare the hearts of those that we will be ministering to so that they will be open to receiving the gospel message and the tracts that we will be handing out.

Prayer involves God in our evangelism outreaches. (Acts 4:23-31) This is a great key to seeing fruit in our evangelism outreaches. *We need to pray in the harvest.*

Prayer also helps to prepare our hearts and to get us in tune with God's heart for people. Prayer is the key to seeing revival in our nation. We need to pray for God to give us His love for the people that we are ministering to.

**In the book of 2 Chronicles we read,**

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

**(2 Chronicles 7:14)**

We need to always pray that the Holy Spirit will anoint our words and direct our conversations when we are witnessing to others. God knows the hearts and needs of all people. Before preaching we need to invite the Holy Spirit to speak through us and to anoint our words.

## **2) Understanding humanity**

A great key to effectively preaching to the lost and to sharing our faith with others is to have a clear understanding of Humanity.

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,**

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

BECAUSE OF SIN AND THE FALL OF MAN AND THE CONTINUAL EFFORTS OF THE DEVIL AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS TO DESTROY PEOPLE'S LIVES, MANY PEOPLE LIVE FAR BENEATH THEIR GOD GIVEN DESIGN AND POTENTIAL AND OFTEN SUFFER IN MANY WAYS

**I will now look at some of the features of humanity that we need to understand if we are to be effective in our preaching**

- i) That without Christ we all have a God shaped vacuum that nothing else can fill. We were made to worship God
- ii) People suffer from many fears (Fear of man, fear of rejection, fear of failure, fear of lack, fear of death and hundreds of other fears)
- iii) Because of the breakdown of families many people carry deep hurts and suffer from rejection. Jesus will reject no person who comes to Him.
- iv) All people have a need to be loved and accepted and will even stay in dysfunctional relationships out of a fear of being alone. Hence peer group pressure can cause people to make wrong choices in life because of their fear of being rejected
- v) That without the Lord, people worry about many things and are anxious about many things. Only putting our entire trust in the Lord can give us true peace
- vi) That people need to have a purpose in life. Where there is no revelation people cast of restraint. God created us for a unique plan and purpose
- vii) That many people have a wrong concept of God,
- viii) That many people (in particular the youth) see no hope or future in life, and
- ix) That people cope with the emptiness of life without Christ in many dysfunctional ways:
  - Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling, Ungodly Relationships, Work holism, Buying things, Partying, Living for pleasure, etc



### 3) Jesus is the answer

There are many blessing that we receive when we come to Christ.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.” (**Ephesians 1:3**)

- In Christ we have been Chosen (**Ephesians 1:4**), we are Accepted, (**Ephesians 1:6**) we have been Forgiven and we have been adopted into the family of God (**Ephesians 1:5**)
- JESUS is the lover of our soul. Only Jesus can love us perfectly at all times and fill the empty void in our life
- He is the Prince of peace (**Isaiah 9:6**) (**Isaiah 26:3-4**) The moment we come to Christ we have peace with God

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” (**Romans 5:1**)

- He is the Healer (**Isaiah 53:5**) (**Psalms 103:3**)

**King David wrote,**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (**Psalms 103:2-5**)

- He is the Deliverer (**Psalms 34:4**) **God is able to rescue us from harm or danger. Jesus has saved us from sin and death**

**King David wrote,**

“I sought the LORD, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.” (**Psalms 34:4**)



- He binds up and heals the broken hearted (**Luke 4:18**) Jesus is able to heal the hearts of those who have been rejected or mistreated in life.

**In the gospel of Luke, we read the words of Jesus as He read out part of the book of Isaiah that related to Him,**

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed.” (**Luke 4:18**)

- He sets at liberty those oppressed by the Devil (**Luke 4:18**) He who the Son sets free is free indeed
- He will never leave nor forsake us, (**Hebrews 13:5**)

**In the book of Hebrews we read,**

“...For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (**Hebrew 13:5-6**)

- He has a plan for our life that is full of purpose, (**Ephesians 2:10**)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (**Ephesians 2:10**)

**Jesus Himself said,** “... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

- As believers we can tap into all of God’s promises in His word, (**2 Corinthians 1:20**) including answered prayer (**Mark 11:22-24**) (**1 John 5:14-15**)
- When we put Christ first in our life, we can be assured that God promises to meet our ever need in life (**Matthew 6:31-33**)

**Jesus Himself said**, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)** And

- We have eternal life. **(John 3:16)** To be absent from the body as a believer is to be with Jesus. Death no longer has any sting

**Jesus Himself said**, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” **(John 14:1-3)**

**All that we truly need in life is found in Christ**

#### **4) The simple gospel message (The gospel of grace)**

##### **ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT**

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, “The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 6:23b)**

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

**BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT, WE CANNOT EARN IT NOR DO WE DESERVE IT**

**The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:**

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.” **(Ephesians 2:8c-9)**

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT,  
NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

### **EVERYONE HAS SINNED**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”  
**(Romans 3:23)**

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” **(Romans 3:10a)**

**In the book of Isaiah we read,** “But we are all like an unclean thing,  
And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” **(Isaiah 64:6a)**

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,** “The heart is deceitful above all  
things, And desperately wicked; ...” **(Jeremiah 17:9)**

**Again, in the book of Isaiah we read,** “All we like sheep have  
gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the  
Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” **(Isaiah 53:6)**

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes  
to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust**  
are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express  
selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart,  
soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care  
for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are  
sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall  
short of the glory of God.” **(Romans 3:23)**

### **WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES**

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the  
mark and fall short of God’s standard of absolute perfection.

**Jesus said,** “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in  
heaven is perfect.” **(Matthew 5:48)**

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

**In the book of James we read, “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)**

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

**BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN.**

**HOWEVER, IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.**

**Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?**

**BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US**

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.” **(Psalm 145:8-9)**

“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” **(Psalm 100:5)** “For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.” **(Joel 2:13c)**

**Jesus Himself said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:6-8)**

In fact, the bible says, “... for God is love” **(1 John 4:8)**

**HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN**

**God’s love does not overrule His justice.**

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” **(Deuteronomy 32:3b-4)**

“For I will not justify the wicked.” **(Exodus 23:7c)**

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” **(Isaiah 13:11)** “**And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.**” **(Hebrews 9:27)**

**IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23a)**

**HOWEVER, GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST**

**THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD  
JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” **(John 1:1&14)**

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” **(Matthew 1:23)**

**JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD’S JUSTICE**

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God’s justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

**This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers.** (Refer to Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 1:17-24, Acts 8:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 2:1-5) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:8)**

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

**Jesus Himself said**, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (**John 3:16**)

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER INCLUDES YOU!**

**YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH**

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

**Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.**

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

**WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE**

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

**WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS**

**The Apostle Peter preached**, “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (**Acts 3:19**)



## **REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN**

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction**
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and**
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY**

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD'S WAY IS  
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF  
OUR LIFE

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)

**GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US.**

**WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE  
THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.**

**Jesus said,**

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS,  
(ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS  
PLEASING TO GOD IS EVIDENCE OF OUR NEW LIFE AS A  
BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY  
LORD OF OUR LIFE

## 5) The use of ice breakers to start conversations

Following are some things to consider when approaching people:

- i) Be led by the Holy Spirit as to who to approach
- ii) Making a good first impression (friendly / smile)
- iii) Don't be pushy (*Colossians 4:6*)
- iv) Ice Breakers (to help break down any barriers)
- v) Conversation – First the natural and then the spiritual (We need to be first **GENUINELY** interested in those who we are witnessing to. Wait for the Holy Spirit to direct the conversation to the sharing of our faith)

### **SOME POSSIBLE ICE BREAKERS TO USE:**

- Compliments
- Weather
- Child or Dog (talk about)
- Did you have a good day today?
- Any prayer needs?
- Invite to our church meetings
- An open-ended question such as, “what do you think happens when someone dies?”

## 6) Some keys to effective one-on-one evangelism

- Firstly, and most importantly we need to have a clear understanding of the gospel message and be able to communicate it to others in an uncomplicated way
- Whenever we share our faith with others it is important to incorporate the message of the cross. It is in sharing the gospel message that people's hearts will be opened to receive Christ (Romans 1:16)
- We need to be led by the Holy Spirit when seeking who to witness to. God knows the heart of every person and who is ready to receive the gospel message. This is a great key to avoiding time wasters

- The importance of making a good first impression. We need to be friendly

- We need to GENUINELY care for people; That those that we witness to must see that we have a genuine interest in their lives

- ASK SOME QUESTIONS THAT WILL CAUSE PEOPLE TO THINK ABOUT LIFE AND ETERNITY TO HELP LOWER THEIR GUARD. I.e. what do you think happens when you die? Do you believe in an afterlife?
- We need to learn to listen to and pay attention to people. Listening to someone who is sharing their life's struggles with us will so often open their heart to receiving the message of the gospel
- Listening to people is a great key to opening up opportunities for us to share our faith with others. In a world that is becoming more and more impersonal, just to listen to people first is a great key to being effective in sharing our faith with others
- We need to have a genuine love for the people that we are witnessing and preaching to. Otherwise, we are just clanging cymbals (1 Corinthians 13:1)
- It is also important that we do not compete with each other when we go out witnessing in pairs. One can pray whilst the other shares
- We must never perceive those that are lost as being our enemies. God has a great love for all people from all religious and philosophical backgrounds and desires that all would come to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and be saved
- God simply has a great love for all people. The conversion of the Apostle Paul who was persecuting Christians prior to coming to faith is a perfect example of God's incredible grace and love for all people

- When sharing our faith, it must never be about winning an argument but always about making known the love of God to the people that we are witnessing to and *what Christ has done for them*
- Nothing looks worse than to see a Christian in a heated argument with an unbeliever about their faith. It is the goodness of God that leads people to repentance. (Romans 2:4)
- Sometimes we need to just agree to disagree with someone who is not yet open to receiving the gospel message after we have shared our faith with them
- It is so important that after we have shared our faith with others that we ALWAYS leave on loving terms. We must not bruise the fruit by trying to force our faith on others when they are not yet ready to receive Christ into their hearts and lives
- A good way to finish our witnessing to someone *who is not yet open to receiving Christ* is simply to ask them if we can we pray for them that they would one day know the love of Christ in a real and tangible way
- Most times they will say yes to this question. Again, all that we do must always be motivated by love
- Again, praying for Divine appointments and being led by the Holy Spirit as to who to witness to, is a great key to seeing fruitfulness in our witnessing to others.
- Especially when we are part of an outreach team, it is good to make the most of the time that we are outreaching by only witnessing to those people that God puts on our heart to share our faith with. With Divine appointments people's hearts have usually already been prepared to receive the gospel message when we share our faith with them

- Using ice breakers is a great way of opening up conversations with others
- Some possible ice breakers to use include: Compliments, commenting on the weather, talking about a person's child or dog, asking for any prayer needs, inviting someone to a special church event, or posing the question, "What do you think happens when someone dies?"

- It is good to first engage in general conversation with the people that we are witnessing to so that they can see that we are genuinely interested in their lives. **FIRST** the natural and then the spiritual.

- It is important that we are never pushy. As we engage with people in conversation, we will invariably see God turning the conversation around at the right time so that we can share about the things of God. Again, we must allow the Holy Spirit to direct our conversations,

And

- We need to keep directing the focus of our witnessing back to the fact that only Jesus Christ can save us because we have ALL sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)
- The simple fact is that there is a fight on for every soul and the Devil will continually try and divert the attention of the person that we are witnessing to onto other things

**SO HOW CAN WE KEEP POINTING PEOPLE BACK TO THEIR NEED FOR CHRIST** when the enemy is trying to draw us into a debate or to take us away from sharing our faith with others. How can we continually keep bringing our conversation with the person that we are witnessing to back to Christ

**We can gently do this in a number of ways;**

- **By continually letting those that we are sharing our faith with know just how much God loves them and what Jesus did for them by dying on the cross for their sins**

**Jesus Himself said, “For God *so loved the world* that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**

- **By letting people know that they can have a fresh start to life today and that God will completely forgive them of all their sins if they come to Christ. That God is the God of second and third and fourth chances. That God is able to restore broken lives. (Psalm 103:2-5)**

**King David wrote, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, And **forget not all His benefits**; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)**

- **By emphasising that where we spend eternity is the most important thing in life and how Jesus Christ gave His life for them as God’s desire is truly that none would perish**

**Jesus Himself said, “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26)**

- **That we make it clear that we all miss the mark of sinless perfection which is the entry requirement for heaven. (Matthew 5:48) (See also James 2:10) That none of us have and can ever lead a sinless life. That only Jesus can forgive us of our sins**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“As it is written, “There is *none righteous*, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; *There is none who does good, no, not one.*”  
**(Romans 3:10a-12)**

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”  
**(Romans 3:23)**

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,**

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” **(Jeremiah 17:9-10)**

**In the book of Acts we read,**

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved”  
**(Acts 4:12)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” **(1 Timothy 2:4)**

- **That we let people know that God has a unique plan for every person’s life that begins the moment they come to Christ. A plan that is full of purpose and meaning**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” **(Ephesians 2:10)**

**And**

- **THAT WE EMPHASISE HOW THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT GOD WILL MEET OUR EVERY NEED IN LIFE WHEN WE PUT JESUS CHRIST FIRST IN OUR LIFE. (Philippians 4:19)  
(Matthew 6:33)**



**As we listen to people we can encourage and comfort them as they share about their needs, fears and concerns in life with us, by letting them know what the bible says about God's faithfulness and what He can do for them in life**

➤ ***That no situation is ever impossible for God.*** That He is both willing and able to help us in time of need. That “For with God nothing will be impossible.” (Luke 1:37) That as believers we have a God who both hears and answers prayers that are in line with His will for our life. (1 John 5:14-15) God always knows what is best for us.

➤ ***That God promises to meet our every need in life when we put Christ first place in our life (Physical, Emotional and Spiritual)***

**Jesus Himself said,** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” (Matthew 6:31-33)

**King David wrote,** “A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation. God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; ...” (Psalm 68:5-6)

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.” (Psalm 63:1-5)

- **That God will connect us with good friends and the right people in life to help us to fulfil our God given destiny**
- **That God knows our every need in life even before we ask Him (Matthew 6:32)**
- **That Jesus came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly; that we can live a life that is full of purpose and meaning (John 10:10)**
- **That Jesus will never leave nor forsake those who come to Him. (Hebrews 13:5) We can therefore have great stability in our life**
- **That God is able to resurrect the broken dreams in our life (Psalm 103:2-5) (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

**King David wrote,**

**“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)**

- **That though the Christian walk is challenging at times the Lord promises to be with us each and every step of the way (Matthew 28:20)**

**Jesus Himself said, “... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen” (Matthew 28:20)**

**And**

- **That one day the best is yet to come when we have an eternal home with Jesus (John 14:3)**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” **(John 14:1-3)**

**AS WE CONTINUALLY SHARE ABOUT GOD’S LOVE AND CONCERN FOR ALL PEOPLE AND HOW HE IS CONTINUALLY FAITHFUL TO THOSE WHO PUT THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN HIM, WE CAN BEGIN TO CONVINCE PEOPLE OF HOW WISE AND IMPORTANT IT IS TO COME TO CHRIST.**

JESUS IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR HUMANITY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE WHEN A PERSON TAKES THEIR LAST BREATH

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” **(Acts 4:12)**

- **As we begin to prepare to lead a person to Christ, we can then let them know that we all have a God shaped vacuum which only God can fill**
- **That without Christ we are separated from God’s presence and that no other thing, career or person can ever fill that void in our life**
- **That there is great joy in heaven over even one sinner that repents and comes to Christ and that Jesus will never reject anyone that comes to Him (Luke 15:7) (John 6:37)**
- **AT THIS TIME IT IS THEN GOOD TO SHARE THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH THOSE THAT YOU ARE WITNESSING TO**

- It is in the sharing of the gospel message that people's hearts are opened to receive Christ into their lives. This is God's saving grace that comes upon people as they hear the gospel.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” **(Romans 1:16)**

FOLLOWING ARE THREE EXAMPLES OF HOW WE COULD SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHER PEOPLE THAT WE ARE WITNESSING TO.

**EXAMPLE ONE (Short presentation):**

God's heart is to have a loving relationship with every person in the world. God's desire is that every person would live a life that is full of great purpose and meaning and have eternal life.

However, it is our sin that separates us from a Holy God. But because of His great love for us God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world to reconcile us back to Himself. **Jesus Christ Himself said**, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)**

Because of His great love for you and me Jesus willing died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins. But death could not hold Him; Three days later He arose triumphantly from the grave and is alive forever more. Today Jesus Christ is reaching out to you and knocking on the door of your heart. Today you can open the door of your heart to Him and receive the gift of eternal life.

## **EXAMPLE TWO**

### **(Goodness of God focus using some key scriptures):**

God's desire is that you would not only have a fulfilled life here on earth, but that you would also have an eternal home with Him.

**Jesus Himself said,** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)**

*God loves ALL people and desires to have a relationship with each and every one of us, no matter how many mistakes that we may have made in the past.* Because of God’s great love for us and Jesus Christ’s willingness to die on the cross for our sins, we can receive God’s forgiveness by coming to Christ, so that we can have eternal life and a future that is full of purpose and meaning.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

**(Romans 5:6-8)**

**Jesus Christ loves you with a passion.** This is why He bled and died on the cross at Calvary to pay the penalty for all of our sins. But death could not hold Him down; Three days later Jesus Christ arose triumphantly from the dead and is alive forevermore. Today Jesus Christ is knocking on the door of your heart. Today you can open your heart to Him and receive the free gift of eternal life

### **EXAMPLE THREE**

**(Incorporating the reality of both heaven and hell):**

Where we spend eternity is the most important thing. Jesus made it clear that there is only one way to get to heaven.

**Jesus said**, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me.” **(John 14:6)** He also said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, **though he may die, he shall live**. And whoever lives and believes in Me **shall never die...**” **(John 11:25-26)**

**Only Jesus Christ can forgive us of our sins.**

The simple fact is that we have all made mistakes in life. None of us are perfect. The bible makes this very clear.

**The Apostle Paul wrote**, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” **(Romans 3:23)** “As it is written: “There is none righteous, no not one;”” **(Romans 3:10)**

FOR THIS REASON, WE MUST ALL PERSONALLY RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY OPENING UP OUR HEART TO JESUS CHRIST AND MAKING HIM OUR OWN PERSONAL LORD AND SAVIOUR DURING OUR TIME HERE ON EARTH.

**The Apostle Paul also wrote**, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(Romans 6:23)**

**JESUS CHRIST CHOSE TO LEAVE HEAVEN FOR 33 YEARS TO RECONCILE US BACK TO GOD. HE DIED ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS**, but three days later He arose triumphantly from the dead. **Jesus is alive and back in Heaven and is coming back soon.**

**ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS.**

No one except Jesus Christ has ever led a sinless life.

The simple fact is that we have all lied at some time in our life, lusted after other people, or gossiped about others. None of us have or can keep God's standard of sinless perfection ALL the time.

**That is why we must all personally turn from our sin and come to Jesus Christ with a humble heart to receive His forgiveness and His righteousness.**

Jesus Himself said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, **(A Believer)** he cannot see the Kingdom of God." **(John 3:3)**

**All** who reject Jesus will be accountable for their own sins when they are resurrected in the body to face Him (God) at the final judgement.

The final ***destiny for all unbelievers*** is the Lake of fire into which the Devil, the False Prophet the Anti-Christ and other fallen angels are also cast. **(Revelation. 20:10-15) THIS IS NOT GOD'S DESIRE THOUGH.**

Jesus loves you with a passion. Today He stands knocking at the door of your heart. Today the sinless blood that He shed on the cross at Calvary for all people can wash *all of your sins away*. **Today you can turn from your sins and open your heart to Jesus Christ and accept His gift of eternal life.**

**Finally, just invite them to pray with you. Let them know that you would love to see them experience the peace and joy in their heart and the purpose that comes from being in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

**AT THIS TIME, YOU CAN THEN LEAD THEM THROUGH THE SINNERS PRAYER**



**Following is one suggested example of a sinner's prayer;**

Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I turn from my sins to live for You. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with the Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

**AGAIN, just one final key to being effective in witnessing to and preaching to others is memorizing scriptures**

The more scriptures that we memorise the more effective we will be in sharing our faith with others. Including scriptures when witnessing to others, helps to build up their faith so that they are able to give their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Especially when street preaching without notes, it is important that we have memorised plenty of Scriptures so that our messages are effective and powerful. (John 8:31-32)

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” **(Romans 10:17)**

- **PRACTICAL EXERCISE:** Split into pairs. One person is to take on the role of the person being witnessed to and the other the role of sharing their faith with that person. Spend 3-5 minutes sharing your faith. Then swap roles

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.” **(Proverbs 11:30)**

## 7) Twelve tips for effective street preaching

- i. **Make your love for Christ the greatest priority in life. We need God's compassion when preaching**

**King David wrote,**

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4)

**In the gospel of Matthew we read,**

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” (Matthew 9:35-36)

- ii. **The importance of memorising Scriptures**

**The LORD said to Joshua,**

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

**The Psalmist wrote,** Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.” (Psalm 119:11)

- **When street preaching, we do not have notes**
- **For this reason, the more scriptures that we have memorised, the more we can incorporate the word of God in our street preaching**
- **This is a great key to preaching powerful messages**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

**(John 8:31-32)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” **(Romans 10:17)**

**iii. Spend time thinking through messages to preach in street outreaches (This gives you many little messages that the Holy Spirit can draw upon when you are preaching)**

**iv. The importance of being continually filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit**

- We must always preach out of the overflow of the Holy Spirit in our lives
- As we give out, we must continually be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit
- It is so important that we minister the word of God and preach the gospel message in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- It is the anointing that breaks the yokes of bondage in people’s lives and sets the captives free

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” **(1 Corinthians 2:3-5)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” **(Ephesians 3:17-19)**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”  
**(John 6:63)**

**v. Before commencing an evangelism outreach, ask the Lord for any theme that He may have for the night for us to preach on**

- **LORD is there any theme that you want me to preach on tonight? If so, we can then think through and prepare some messages to preach during the outreach**

**In the book of Proverbs we read,**

“Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.” **(Proverbs 16:3)**

**In the book of James we read,**

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” **(James 1:5)**

**vi. Spend quality time praying before heading out to preach in the streets. Following are some important prayers to pray:**

- For God to place in our heart all the messages that He wants us to preach during the street outreaches
- If there will be any particular healing needs during the outreach
- For God to give us His great love for all the people that we will be preaching to
- For God to prepare the hearts of all those who will hear the messages to receive the message of the gospel
- For God to keep away all contentious people and for God's favour from all people
- For God's tangible presence and power and love to be manifest in our outreach meetings
- For God's warring angels to continually surround all of our team members, especially when going to darker areas
- Most importantly, for the Holy Spirit to take over our mouth and to speak through us
- For God to bring the right people, at the right time, to hear the right messages, when we are preaching in the streets, and
- Finally, committing the street outreach into the Lord's hands and praying that the Holy Spirit would have His way in all that we do from the moment that we commence the outreach
- **PRAYER INVOLVES GOD IN OUR OUTREACHES. IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE ALWAYS GOD DEPENDENT IN ALL THAT WE DO IN LIFE AND MINISTRY**

**Keys one to six are very much about preparation before we go out to commence an evangelism outreach meeting**

- Given the value of every soul to God, it is worth being excellent in preparing for our street preaching messages
- I am continually thinking through messages to preach to help see people come to Christ and to encourage believers, as I look at the struggles that many are now going through in life
- **HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HUMANITY HELPS US TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE IN OUR STREET PREACHING**
- For example, when preaching to the poor, I can share about the joy and peace and purpose that we can always still have when we love God with all our heart and about the wonderful ETERNAL future that we have in Christ
- I can also share about the power of prayer to change our circumstances and the faithfulness of God
- To the lonely I can share about the wonderful friendship that we can have with God when we come to Christ

**The next six keys now relate to how we can be effective in street preaching when we COMMENCE to do so**

- vii. Spend some time worshipping the Lord before commencing preaching.** (This is a great key to touching God's heart and to getting His love for the people that we are about to preach to)

**The words in one song are "Touching heaven changing earth." God inhabits the praises of His people**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **(John 4:23-24)**

- viii. As you worship the Lord wait for Him to put on your heart what to commence preaching with** (A theme, or a Scripture to start with - i.e. God has such a great love for all people, or John 3:16)

**Again, King David wrote,** “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.” **(Psalm 37:4)**

- ix. After you have commenced preaching with the theme or Scripture that God has put on your heart to start with, then let the Holy Spirit take over and direct the message**

**Jesus said,**

“Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” **(Luke 21:14-15)**

- x. After beginning preaching listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit who will direct our thoughts as He preaches through us**

**Jesus said,**

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26)**

- As we preach, we need to continually listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit who gently impresses upon our minds the next progression of thoughts to preach on
- It is as we communicate these thoughts that we find the Holy Spirit directing our preaching
- As we let go and allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us, the message will flow from our heart as we simply follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we preach
- One great key to being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading when preaching is to fast before we preach
- The real power in our preaching is when we preach the word of God in the power of the Holy Spirit, as we let go and allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us

Again, the Apostle Paul wrote,

“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” (1 Corinthians 2:4)

- xi. Looking at people as you are preaching in the streets, as the Holy Spirit directs and directing the message to them.** The message to them will be relevant for many others as well when we are preaching to large crowds.
- As we preach in the streets it is good to speak directly to different people as the Holy Spirit leads rather than just preaching to the air



- **It is in directing our preaching to specific individuals that we will often invariably share a word of knowledge or wisdom, that helps to open their hearts to the gospel message**

**And**

- xii. **Draw the messages that you preach in the streets to a close by giving people the opportunity of giving their lives to Jesus by sharing the gospel message and praying the sinner's prayer, or if preaching in a crusade, inviting people to respond to an alter call**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” **(Romans 1:16-17)**

#### **FOLLOWING IS A SAMPLE SINNERS PRAYER**

Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Please baptize me now in the Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name, Amen.

### **8) Sharing our testimony**

Sharing our testimony is a powerful way to witness to others. When we share with others how Christ has changed our life and where He has taken us from, it opens up the door to share the gospel message with them.

No one can argue about a life that has been transformed through Jesus Christ coming into their life.

**In the book of Revelation we read, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11)**

We all have a testimony to share of how Jesus Christ has made a big difference in our lives. When we have Divine appointments with others that we are witnessing to, we will find that our testimony of how Christ has changed our lives will so often be relevant to what is happening in their own personal lives. This will then so often lead to them also accepting Jesus Christ into their heart to be their own personal Lord and Saviour.

When sharing our testimony, it is good to include the following:

- What life was like before we came to Christ
- How we came to know Christ as our Lord and Saviour
- How Christ has changed our life and the way that we now live, and
- How living for Christ has given us greater purpose and meaning in life

**PRACTICAL EXERCISE:** Split into pairs and prayerfully put together a brief outline of your testimony of coming to faith and how Christ has changed your life. (5-10 key points) Take ten minutes to do this. Then share your own personal testimony (3-5 minutes) with each other in turn

### **SOME TIPS TO PREPARING YOUR PERSONAL STORY (TESTIMONY)**

- i. Pray as you prepare and put together your testimony. Pray also before you share your story (testimony) with others by asking the Holy Spirit to speak through you as you share your testimony with others**
- ii. Prepare your testimony so that a non-Christian will understand how Jesus has changed your life**

- iii. Avoid too much detail about the bad things in your past that might tend to glorify sinful exploits or cause people to judge you**
- iv. In telling how you came to know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour say it in a way that others can imitate when they decide to trust in Him**
- v. You may include some short bible verses that complement your testimony and help give clarity to what you are sharing with others. "... Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17)**
- vi. Try to use common, non-church words as much as possible when sharing with unbelievers. Avoid using Biblical or religious terms such as "born again," "washed in the Blood," "saved" and "alleluia" which they may not understand. We need to learn to be naturally spiritual**
- vii. Avoid speaking negatively about any other religion, especially the religion that you may have followed before coming to Christ**
- viii. Focus on what Christ has done in YOUR life, not on the errors of your former faith. Speaking negatively about other religions can be a barrier to others coming to Christ. Keep focused on sharing how Jesus Christ has transformed your life**
- ix. Conclude your testimony naturally by saying something like "I hope that my testimony has been an encouragement for you," and**
- x. You may then like to invite people to share in your own experience of accepting Jesus Christ into your life by giving them the opportunity of making Him their own personal Lord and Saviour in their life.**

## 9) Using gospel tracts to evangelise others

Gospel tracts are a great tool to use to help unbelievers to come to Christ. For new believers, giving out gospel tracts is a great way for them to share their faith with others whilst they are growing themselves in their own faith.

It is always good to have some gospel tracts with us so that we are able to give tracts to people that we may meet who are searching for answers in life, or who are experiencing great trials and challenges in their life. *This is especially the case for those who travel a lot.* It is so important that we are always prepared to share our faith, in season and out of season.

### **Gospel tracts are great to use:**

- To letter box drop homes and businesses. (Letter box dropping gospel tracts is particularly effective in areas which have older residents)
- As part of evangelism outreaches
- To leave with people when you are short of time
- To help explain the gospel to unbelievers
- To leave with our unsaved family members and friends to look at, and
- To give out to people when you are not really in a talking mood

### **Some reasons why Gospel Tracts are so good to use in evangelising:**

- Short messages can go a long way in turning people to the Lord. (Jonah's eight-word sermon is a great example – Jonah 3:4-5)
- God planted a tract for Hudson Taylor to read at the age of 17 and he planted the Gospel for over 50 years for the millions in China

- Tracts go everywhere and they are found in many places such as letterboxes, phone booths, buses, businesses, bathrooms, trains, planes, schools and universities, etc
- Tracts can do the witnessing for us at a time and place that may suit the reader, and
- Tracts don't get into arguments; they just state their case and leave the results to the Lord

Tracts are a great tool for those who are regular train commuters or who travel a lot. There are always many opportunities on the train or planes to connect with unbelievers and to give out tracts

Following are some practices that can help you to become more effective in distributing tracts to people in street outreaches;

- Become familiar with the content of the tract that you are handing out. It is good to have a tract that is very clear and concise in its content and easily understood by unbelievers *AND that you feel good about distributing*
- Share a little about the content of the tract with those that you are giving the tract to. This can help the reader to more fully embrace the message on the tract
- It is good to also point people to where the sinner's prayer is located for those *that we spend some time talking to during our outreaches*. Often at this time you can then suggest to them that now would be a good time for them to say this prayer; that there is no better day than "today" for them to start their new life with Christ
- Share as the Holy Spirit leads some encouraging words when you are handing out the gospel tracts to people. This can help those who are going through struggles to receive the gospel tracts

- Sometimes the most effective way to distribute tracts is to just leave them in the hands of the people that you have given them to without saying anything. Then as they read the tracts the Holy Spirit will begin to minister to them, and
- Just a few things that can help us to distribute tracts more effectively are;
  - ❖ Being always enthusiastic and friendly when handing out tracts to others.
  - ❖ Having worship music in the background during our outreaches. Worship helps to open up the heavens and makes people more receptive to receiving the gospel tracts
  - ❖ Being led by the Holy Spirit when handing out the tracts. *Especially when you have many people walking towards you in a street outreach* it is good to be led by the Holy Spirit as to who to give the tracts to. Otherwise, we can miss many who may be open to the gospel message
  - ❖ Gently looking at placing the tracts into the hands of those passing by. This helps people to decide to receive the tracts
  - ❖ Positioning yourself in a way that people are coming towards you in street outreaches. Having to move to the left or right to reach out to people tends to cause them to be less open to receiving the gospel tracts
  - ❖ We must refuse to get discouraged when some people reject the gospel tracts but keep smiling. A smile helps to open up people's hearts to receive the tracts
  - ❖ If one or two people say no to receiving tracts, let one or two others pass by before resuming handing out the tracts. There is a sheep factor that so often stops people from receiving tracts. When one says no to receiving the tract those following them will also often say no, and

- ❖ Finally, it is important that the tracts that you are handing out have a clear presentation of the gospel message and a sinner's prayer. It is also good to have a website and/or church address on the gospel tract so that people can connect with a local church and with other believers through the tract

## **10) Continually being motivated by a genuine love for the lost**

We need to have a GENUINE love and concern for all people and be genuinely interested in the lives of those people that we are witnessing to.

We must never see people as being just another notch in our evangelical belt. People do not care about how much we know, but they do want to know how much we care

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”

**(1 Corinthians 13:1-3)**

People respond to genuine love and kindness. Having a genuine love for others is a great key to seeing people's hearts being opened to receive the message of the gospel

**During His time here on earth Jesus' life was characterized by the great love and compassion that He had for others. In particular for the lost and the poor and marginalized**

**In the gospel of Matthew we see Jesus' great love and concern for the lost,** “Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:35-38)

**It is our genuine love for others that will also compel us to share our faith with unbelievers, even when it is inconvenient**

## **11) Depending on the Holy Spirit**

It is good to learn as much as we can about how to evangelise more effectively but the most important thing is to depend on the enabling power of the Holy Spirit when witnessing to others.

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-4)

**Jesus Himself said,** “Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.” (Luke 21:14-15)

**THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS TO OTHERS.**

**In the book of Acts we read,** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



**The Holy Spirit gives us both the boldness and wisdom that we need to share our faith with others**

For those people who are by nature more shy they will find that as they begin sharing their faith with others the Holy Spirit will put the words in their mouth to speak.

I always believe in the importance of preparing for my messages and continually learning how to become more effective in sharing my faith with others.

Often, I will look at passages of Scripture in the bible and spend time working through in my mind how I can effectively share the wisdom in these scriptures with those that I will be witnessing to and preaching to at our evangelism outreaches.

There is no greater cause than helping people to come to Christ. Given the value of every soul to God it is good to give our best in preparing for our street outreaches

HOWEVER, once I begin sharing my faith with someone, I allow the Holy Spirit to direct my conversations.

As I listen to the person that I am witnessing to, I also listen to what the Holy Spirit may be putting on my heart to share with that person. God knows how best to reach out to people with His love and will give us the keys to help us to see someone coming to faith in Christ.

The right questions or a word of knowledge given by the Holy Spirit to us will often be the way in which a person begins to open up their heart to Jesus Christ.

**It is the Holy Spirit ministering through us that will convict people of their need to come to Christ as we share the gospel with them.**

**Jesus Himself said,** “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” **(John 16:7-11)**

Being led by the Holy Spirit as to who to witness to is also a great key to bearing much fruit in our Christian walk.

God knows the hearts of all people and who are ready to receive Christ into their hearts and lives. It is in witnessing to those who the Holy Spirit directs us to that will enable us to lead many to Christ.

There is always a right time as well to share our faith with our family members and friends. Until that time comes, we need to simply keep living out the Christian life in the way that we live our lives and love others. (Lifestyle Evangelism)

When the time is right to share our faith with a person, it is so often just minutes before they come to Christ.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to minister through us in our witnessing to others, we will always find that we minister the truth of the gospel in a way that is ungirded by love. The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of “...speaking the truth in love...” (Ephesians 4:15)

**BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A KEY TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO OTHERS ON A CONSISTENT BASIS (In season and out of season)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” **(Ephesians 5:18)**

**In the book of Acts we see that after being threatened for speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus, the disciples turned to God in prayer and were again filled afresh by the Holy Spirit.**

**After this they again began to speak the word of God with boldness.**

**We see this in Acts 4:31**

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”  
**(Acts 4:31)**

**AND**

## **12) The importance of commitment in sharing our faith with others**

We must simply be committed to going and sharing our faith with others. Bottom line we need to just reach out and share our faith with others that God puts on our heart to share our faith with.

This may at times interfere with our own plans.

We need to simply respond to Jesus great commission by reaching out to the lost with the gospel message.

**Jesus Himself said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15)**

We all have a mission’s field. Everywhere we go we will have opportunities to share our faith with others. This is why the great revivalist John Wesley said my parish is the whole world.

Given the glorious hope that we have in Christ, how we need to share the gospel with all those that God would put on our heart to share it with. We must simply choose to be missions minded and to be available to be used of God to share our faith with others.

**The great German evangelist Reinherd Bonnke who saw 80 million conversions through his ministry was quoted as saying;**

"Some Christians wait to evangelize till times seem better. The best time is for the worst times. "Today is the day of salvation". Today is always the most opportune day. The Holy Spirit is never on vacation. Many are always preparing.

The best way to prepare for evangelism is to do it. Conferences, seminars, prolonged prayer sessions may be excellent but they often produce only perpetual students, not witnesses, too busy learning how than to actually do it. Turning things over in our mind plows no fields. Jesus was unhurried but always urgent. His word was to preach "while it is day, for the night comes when no one can work..." God bless you."

I will now finish by looking at the life of a man who truly knew the value of every soul to God

### **JOHN HARPER (A true hero of the faith)**

- John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29<sup>th</sup>, 1872
- On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life
- Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ
- As John Harper's life unfolded, he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God
- After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.

- This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members
- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However, during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in
- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six-year-old daughter Nana
- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat

- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved
- However, this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man
- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ

- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE, **“Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved.”**

## **LINKS TO EVANGELISM TRAINING RESOURCES AND VIDEOS ON OUR CHURCH OF HOPE WEBSITE:**

To download our Evangelism Training Manuals and Teachings:  
<https://www.coh.org.au/downloads>

To download our Quick Start Evangelism Training videos:  
[https://www.coh.org.au/Quick\\_Start](https://www.coh.org.au/Quick_Start)

To download our Evangelism Training Workshop videos:  
[https://www.coh.org.au/2021\\_Evangelism\\_School](https://www.coh.org.au/2021_Evangelism_School)

To download our 2023 Zoom School videos (Evangelism and Leadership teachings)  
[https://www.coh.org.au/Zoom\\_School](https://www.coh.org.au/Zoom_School)

To visit our 17-week Evangelism and Ministry Training Course page:  
[https://www.coh.org.au/ministry\\_course](https://www.coh.org.au/ministry_course)

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